

renewal news

IDAHO CAPITOL RESTORATION



The exterior work described in this Capitol Renovation and Repair Bulletin represents only a very small portion of the total critical repair needs of the Idaho State Capitol Building.

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Underneath the Layers – An Eagle Reappears

Over the past couple of months, Idaho's Capitol Eagle has undergone quite a transformation – in fact the Statehouse official guardian looks 75 years younger.

And, the **best is yet to come!**

Contractors have meticulously removed several layers of old paint and coatings to prepare for the application of gold leaf – a process currently underway under a camping tent at the top of the Capitol Dome.

According to **Jan Frew**, DPW Design and Construction Manager, the gilding should be completed by the end of August. The tent serves as a protective cover as the gold leaf is applied in very thin layers. A new architectural paint stripper product was used to remove the old coatings. Water based, biodegradable and non-toxic, workers applied the stripper in thick, even layers leaving overnight to dry. The old coatings are then wiped off and the area rinsed with water. Additional stripper is applied to remove all the layers of paint. This process was repeated several times. Jan says the product appears to have done an excellent job, **revealing finer, detailed areas of the statue as shown in these pictures.** (See Issue 50 for comparison of the Eagle before the stripping process)

Contractors are also wrapping up repointing and masonry repairs on the Terra Cotta dome and at the Urn and Colonnade levels. **Next Issue** will focus on work to be done at the Urn Level, just below the dome.



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